GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SPACE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2752
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2008
AERIAL SURVEY THROUGH SATELLITE
Charenamei Shri Mani

Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has carried out aerial survey through satellite to ascertain the different categories of lands/areas like forest areas, catchments areas, deforested areas, wastelands, drainage, agriculture lands, etc. in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits that are likely to accrue as a result thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Using satellite data, National Natural Resources Management System (NNRMS), ascertains different categories of lands. The areas/extent of different categories of lands obtained from such projects are:
Forest areas occupy 6,77,088 sq km (20.60% of geographic area of the country).
Wastelands occupy around 55 million hectares (17.45% of total geographic area). Out of this, around 41 million hectares is assessed as cultivable/ reclaimable, and around 14 million hectares as non-cultivable/ non-reclaimable.
The net sown area during 2005-06 was assessed to be around 141.42 million hectares (43% of the total geographical area of the country). Of this, 50.57 million hectares is double cropped area.

(c) The information is regularly used by the State and Central Governments for planning various developmental activities such as monitoring forest cover and their management; afforestation of degraded forest lands; reclamation of wastelands; improving and management of agricultural areas, etc.